

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

October 10, 1997

Business Meeting

MINUTES

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for the regular business meeting in Senate Room B of the General Assembly Building, Richmond, Virginia on Friday, October 10, 1997, with the following members present:

Ms. Michelle Easton	Mr. Robert H. Patterson, Jr.	
Mrs. Lil Tuttle	Senator John W. Russell	Senator
J. Brandon Bell	Mrs. Cheri P. Yecke	
Mr. Rayford Harris, Sr.		
	Dr. Richard T. La Pointe	
	Secretary and Superintendent of Public	
	Instruction	

Ms. Easton, president, presided and called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Senator John Russell gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Senator Russell made a motion for approval of the minutes of the September 4, 1997 meeting. Copies of the minutes had been distributed previously to all members of the Board for review. The motion was seconded by Ms. Yecke and carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Easton requested that public comment be added to the agenda after current issues. Ms. Easton also requested that Agenda Item G, *Discussion of the Board of Education's 1997 Annual Report*

on the Condition and Needs of Public Education in the Commonwealth of Virginia, follow Agenda Item D, *Final Review of the Board of Education Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 1998*. She also indicated that the Executive Session would be moved to after the Discussion Items. Ms. Easton then offered up the agenda for approval. A motion was made for approval of the agenda by Ms. Tuttle, seconded by Ms. Yecke, and carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

The motion was made by Senator Russell to adopt the following items on the consent agenda:

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans
Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for
Placement on Waiting List
Final Review of the Financial Report on the Literary Loan Fund

The motion was seconded by Mrs. Tuttle and carried unanimously.

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans

The Superintendent's recommendation for four new applications in the amount of \$7,750,000 was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

COUNTY, CITY, TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Suffolk City	Central Elementary	\$5,000,000.00
Russell County	Sword's Creek Elementary	350,000.00
Nottoway County	Burkeville Elementary	1,000,000.00
Nottoway County	Blackstone Primary	1,400,000.00
	TOTAL	\$7,750,000.00

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List

The Superintendent's recommendation that funds be released for four projects in the amount of \$7,750,000 be deferred and placed on the First Priority Waiting List was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

COUNTY, CITY, TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Suffolk City	Central Elementary	\$5,000,000.00
Russell County	Sword= Creek Elementary	350,000.00
Nottoway County	Burkeville Elementary	1,000,000.00
Nottoway County	Blackstone Primary	1,400,000.00
	TOTAL	\$7,750,000.00

Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund

The Superintendent=s recommendation for approval of the financial report on the status of the Literary Fund as of August 31, 1997, was accepted by the Board of Education=s vote on the consent agenda.

Discussion of Current Issues

Ms. Tuttle indicated that she and Ms. Yecke attended the Educational Leaders Council Conference in Dallas, Texas. Ms. Tuttle stated that she had returned with some tapes of the conference and encouraged board members to review them. Ms. Tuttle also encouraged board members to attend the next conference of the council if they were able to do so.

Dr. La Pointe indicated that the Division of Policy and Public Affairs was actively working on a dissemination plan for carrying the issues of the Standards of Accreditation to the public. He encouraged board members to participate in the outreach effort and asked them to express the kinds of issues that they feel are important to discuss in this effort.

Mr. Patterson asked who approves textbooks for schools. Dr. La Pointe indicated that this is done at the local school division level, although the department staff reviews textbooks. Dr. DeMary stated that the textbook adoption effort is a collaborative effort between the Divisions of Technology and Instruction. The Division of Technology deals with the vendors by informing them of the textbooks that are to be

considered for evaluation. The Division of Instruction then forms a textbook review committee that consists of teachers, content supervisors, parents and experts in the specific subject area being examined.

This committee studies the textbooks up for review using three criteria. The committee validates the correlation between the textbook and the Standards of Learning, determines the textbook's content accuracy and reviews for any grammatical and mechanical errors within the text. The information is then compiled into a report that is distributed to the local school divisions. The school division is then able to use the disseminated information in selecting and purchasing textbooks.

Mr. Patterson wanted to know if ideological issues were reviewed. Dr. DeMary indicated that content from the SOLs are validated and that while ideology is examined, the methodology used to present the material is not because it is felt that decisions of that nature should be made at the local level.

Dr. DeMary stated that math K-12, English literature 6-12 and foreign language's textbook adoptions are upcoming and perhaps the board members would like to review the ensuing process. Ms. Easton requested that board members receive information on the committee process. Electronic textbooks are also being reviewed and Dr. DeMary indicated that this is a new area for them. This is a policy decision that the board might like to review and evaluate.

Mr. Harris indicated that there has not been a report from staff on the activity or learning structures of disciplines that enhance student's learning process and experience. Mr. Harris stated that he would like to know what the strengths of various disciplines are in correlation to other subject areas and how various school divisions are implementing this type of correlation.

Public Comment

Mr. Jim Murphy spoke during the public comment period on the issue of American Sign Language. After his comment, Mrs. Yecke and Ms. Easton requested that the American Sign Language issue be placed on the November meeting agenda. Ms. Tuttle asked Mr. Murphy for clarification on the qualification of the credit received by students at a college, and Mrs. Yecke wanted to know if a dual enrollment was possible. Mr. Murphy stated that for a college to offer course in the high school it is necessary to ensure that the opportunity is there.

Action Items

Final Review of the Board of Education Meeting Dates for the Calendar Year 1998

Dr. James Laws brought before the board a list of meeting dates presented at the September 4, 1997 meeting. The months of April, July and October were noted as meetings to be considered for other areas in the Commonwealth. Ms. Tuttle asked when test assessments would be

available so that the April retreat could be moved and allow board members to devote time to this issue. Cam Harris indicated that scores will not be available until the fall. A motion to accept the following meeting dates for 1998 was made by Mrs. Yecke, seconded by Ms. Tuttle and carried unanimously:

January 8	June 25
February 26	July 23
March 26	September 24
April 22, 23, 24	October 22
May 28	November 19

Discussion of the Board of Education's 1997 Annual Report on the Condition and Needs of Public Education in the Commonwealth of Virginia

Dr. James Laws presented a copy of last year's report as an example of the format that was used. He indicated that the board would need to determine if the format used last year should be used in this year's report.

Mrs. Yecke stated that under the Overview of Assessment she wants a discussion of why a switch was made from the ITBS to the Stanford 9 occurred, explaining the better correlation of the Stanford 9 with Virginia's SOLs. She also felt that an explanation of the rationale for omitting science and social science/history should be included. Mrs. Yecke also believes an update on the time line of the SOL test will help explain that last year was a field test and that this year's tests will form the baseline. This explanation will allow readers to see the big picture.

Mr. Harris requested a composite picture of the current status of Public education within the report.

Approval of Students with Disabilities: Guidelines for Participation in the SOL Assessments

Board members reviewed the guidelines at their February meeting and the Superintendent is recommending that the board approve the guidelines. Cam Harris expanded on the issue indicating that students with disabilities need to be accommodated during SOL testing. The motion to approve the guidelines was made by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Yecke and carried unanimously.

Approval of Limited English Proficient Students: Guidelines for Participation in the SOL Assessments

Cam Harris indicated that these guidelines follow the same as those for disabled students during SOL testing. Ms. Harris recognized Shelly Loving-Ryder's contribution to the creation of the document. The Superintendent recommended that the board approve the guidelines. The motion to approve the guidelines was made by Senator Russell, seconded by Tuttle and carried unanimously.

Discussion Items

Report on Results of the Summer, 1997 Administration of the Literacy Passport Test (LPT)

Cam Harris explained the report results to the board members. Mrs. Tuttle brought up the issue of non-registered public school children having the opportunity to take the test. Ms. Harris indicated that there is a board policy that states it is a privilege of public school children to take the test. Ms. Tuttle indicated that she would like this issue to be addressed by the board and requested that it be placed on a future agenda with cost figures. Ms. Easton indicated that there is an interest in seeing the policy changed. Ms. Harris indicated that there are security issues and other items that need to be considered if policy is changed.

Annual Report on the Status of Student Tuition Guaranty Fund for Proprietary Schools

Thomas Elliott indicated that last year the board asked that this item be pulled from Consent agenda and presented to the board. Dr. Elliott indicated that the board should determine whether or not to continue with the presentation at future dates or to place the fund back on the Consent Agenda. Dr. Elliott indicated that when the revised regulations are presented in 1998 that monies be approved for additional staff positions. Carol Buchanan elaborated on the report, and indicated that there have been a significant number of career school closings. In the past year, approximately 20,000 adult learners went through proprietary schools showing that these schools have a significant impact in Virginia.

First Review of Guidelines for Teacher Removal of Students from Class for Disruptive Behavior

Dr. DeMary presented the guidelines. In 1994, the Board of Education developed Student Conduct Guidelines which served as model for school divisions to adopt their own policies. In 1997, the General Assembly amended the code for student removal and directed the board to prepare guidelines on this issue. Dr. DeMary indicated that the guidelines had not yet been circulated and requested that the board allow staff to circulate and receive feedback on the guidelines. Mrs. Yecke requested an expansion of the code, specifically a definition of the word **Remove** and what it means in this context and the qualification of disruptive behavior.

Dr. La Pointe indicated that he believes the General Assembly's intent was to reinvest the authority of the teacher in the class. Mr. Patterson stated that teachers should have more authority for removing disruptive students and that removing disruptive students should not be a cumbersome procedure. Dr. DeMary stated that the guidelines need to reflect the board's criteria. Dr. La Pointe stated that he would be happy to work with the Attorney General's office in developing simpler guidelines that meet the letter of the law. The Superintendent indicated that the guidelines need to be adopted by December 1. Senator

Russell stated that the code should be sufficient guidelines for this issue. Dr. DeMary stated that these guidelines will become part of the larger Student Conduct document, and that these specific guidelines can be as simple or detailed as the board feels necessary. Mrs. Tuttle indicated that the American Federation of Teachers has an extensive set of recommendations on their website on this issue. She requested those recommendations and the AFT's definition of *habitual* be distributed to the board.

Executive Session

Mrs. Tuttle moved that the Board go into an executive session pursuant to Virginia Code '2.1-344.A.1 to discuss the licensure status of individual teachers. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously. The Board adjourned for Executive Session at 11:00 a.m.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the Board reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Yecke and carried unanimously. The Board reconvened at 11:30 a.m.

Joan Murphy, Assistant Attorney General, asked that the Board certify by roll call vote that to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification motion applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session was heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Board Roll Call:

Mrs. Easton - Aye	Mrs. Yecke - Aye
Mr. Harris - Aye	Senator Russell - Aye
Mr. Patterson - Aye	Senator Bell - Aye
Mrs. Tuttle - Aye	

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion to accept Case #1 the Superintendent's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Senator Russell and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion to accept Case #2 the Superintendent's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Yecke and carried unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Easton adjourned the meeting of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 11:35 a.m.

President